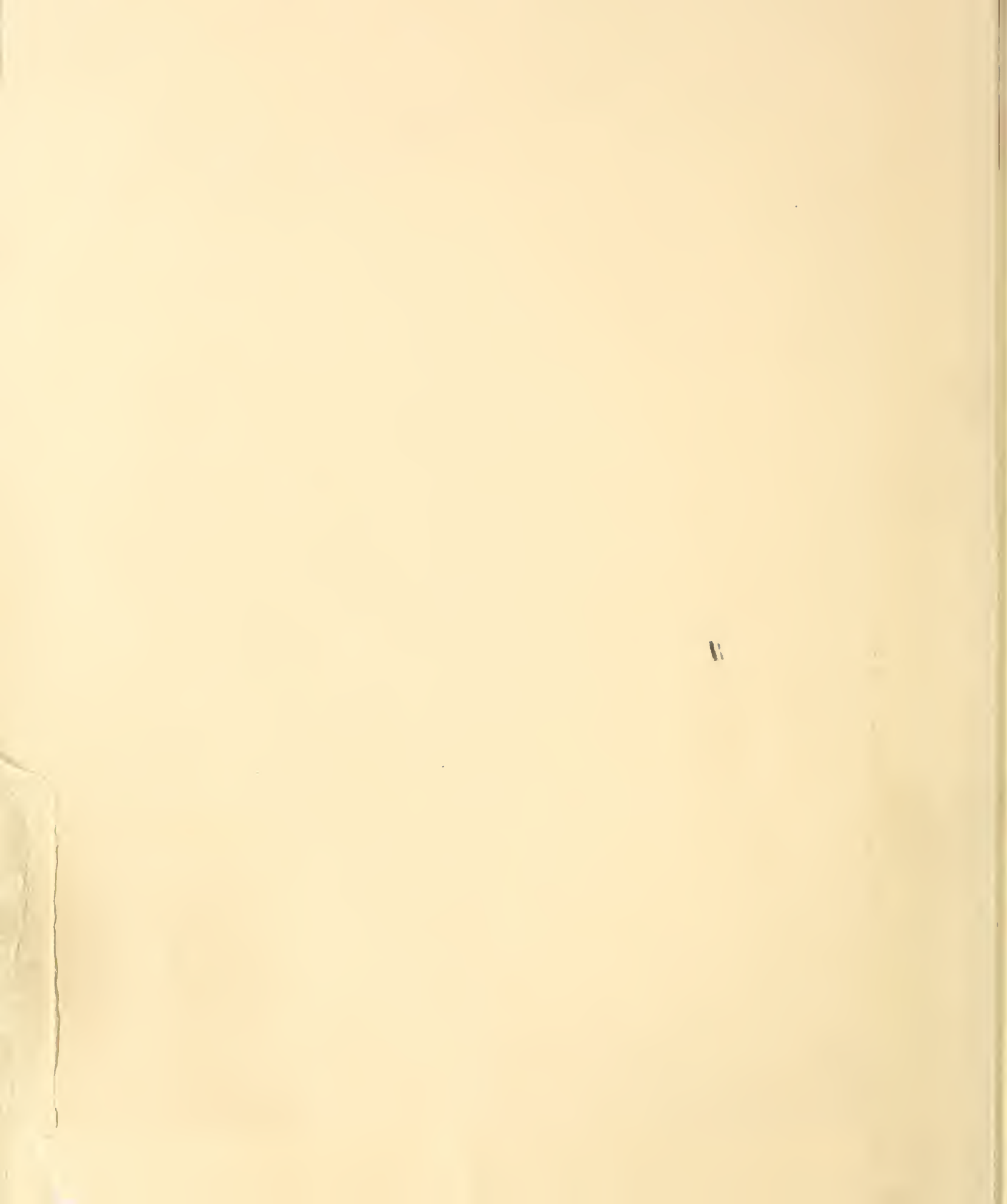


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SERVICE

USDA'S REPORT TO CONSUMERS

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ORANGES ARE GOOD

For Your Health, Your Hands, Your Car. Everyone knows that oranges are good for you. In addition, they taste good, look pretty, and smell nice. Scientists of USDA's Agricultural Research Service have discovered that oranges can also clean mechanics' hands, remove sludge from engines--and still smell nice. The researchers mixed d-limonene, the principal component of distilled orange oil, with lanolin and some other ingredients into a lotion-type hand cleaner. Then, they mixed d-limonene with a different set of ingredients to produce a gel-type engine cleaner. Both the gel and the lotion received high marks from mechanics at an industrial machine repair shop. The mechanics reported the hand cleaner pleasantly degreased their hands and the gel was as effective as other commercial cleaners in removing grease, sludge, lacquerlike residues and other deposit from machinery. According to the mechanics, the engine cleaner caused less skin irritation to hands and had a more agreeable odor than commercial cleaners. The orange oil formulas are drawing interest from industry. One of these days, your breath, your hands, and your car engine may all emit the nice aroma of a fruit bowl.

A COTTON TALE

Where The Bale Goes. A typical bale of U.S. cotton arrives at the mill weighing in at about 500 pounds. From there it steadily loses weight as it realizes its potential and becomes a spool of thread, a pair of jeans, or stuffing in a chair. For weight-watchers, here's how it's done: From the original 500 pounds, take off about 20 pounds for bagging and metal ties or bands ("tare") and another 24 pounds for waste such as dust and vegetable matter. Still another 29 pounds of waste are produced in the first stages of yarn production. This is usable waste that eventually ends up as padding and upholstery filling. The bale is now down to 427 pounds which will be spun into yarns. About 76 pounds will go for knit goods, 9 pounds for sewing thread, 3 pounds for carpet and tufting yarns and 7 pounds for specialty yarns. The rest, 332 pounds, will be woven into fabric. Of this, 261 pounds will be finished cotton fabric. Unfinished or gray goods, which are raw, unbleached fabrics, account for 29 pounds. Yarn-dyed fabrics, where the yarn is dyed before weaving, claim another 35 pounds. The process of weaving yarn into fabric produces still another 7 pounds of waste to be sold to the textile waste industry. So goes the baleful tale of losing weight for the goods of mankind.



THE SCHWARTZBECK'S DAILY COMMITMENT

Captured On Film. Remember Joe and Nona Schwartzbeck of Maryland--those dairy farmers featured in "People On The Farm: Dairying," the first booklet in USDA's new series about modern farming? They got up at 4 o'clock every 365 mornings of the year? (Service #137, June 1976.) Now, Joe and Nona Schwartzbeck's story has been captured on film--namely, on slides and filmstrip. The visual presentations bring the Schwartzbecks to life with many more photographs than were available in the booklet--and they are in living color, of course. An interesting bonus: Joe's and Nona's voices are heard on the soundtrack explaining their philosophy and how they go about dairying. The slide set/filmstrip are the first in a series of visuals which will accompany the "People On The Farm" booklet series. Copies of the slide set can be purchased for \$24 from Photography Division, Office of Communication, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. The filmstrip is available for \$17 from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20011. Prices cover a cassette with soundtrack including both 50 Hz and 1,000 Hz pulses to change frames automatically, and two copies of an illustrated narrative guide.

PEOPLE ON THE FARM (CONTINUED)

Growing Broilers At About 10 Cents A Piece. With Joe and Nona Schwartzbeck and their dairy farm in print and on film (see above story), you can now meet Maurice and Ann Layton of Magee, Miss. They don't get up at 4 a.m. but they tell what it's like raising chickens. The Laytons are the featured family in the second booklet of the "People On The Farm" series. Times have changed since a farm wife threw a few handfuls of grain out to a small flock of chickens roaming free in the barnyard. Since the birds foraged for the rest of their feed, they were 6 months old before they were big enough to eat. Today's genetically superior birds stay less than 8 weeks on the farm, eat a ration that was probably computer formulated, and share a carefully controlled environment with about 15,000 other chickens in a house the length of a football field. The Laytons, and about 30,000 other broiler growers like them, don't even own the birds. The well-illustrated new booklet, "People On The Farm: Broiler Growers," tells how the Laytons fit into the efficient industry which provides America's chicken dinners. The new booklet is written for an urban audience. It is especially interesting to children who may never have visited a farm, much less a farm that specializes in the production of broilers at the rate of 150,000 a year. Single free copies of both "People On The Farm: Broiler Growers" and "People On The Farm: Dairying" are available from Special Reports Division, Office of Communication, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Bulk copies are available free to classroom teachers and other persons working in education programs.

S-T-R-E-T-C-H-I-N-G WATER

When Water Supplies Are Short. For many parts of the U.S., this year is a water-short year. What can be done to help trees, shrubs, lawns, and gardens survive? According to USDA's Soil Conservation Service, it takes good water management. The agency has prepared a leaflet which contains some timely and practical tips for stretching water during a shortage. Actually, some of the tips, especially those on applying water efficiently, make good conservation and economic sense anytime and anywhere. For single free copies of the leaflet, "Water Conservation Tips for Stretching Water for Yards and Gardens," check with your local Soil Conservation Service office (listed in the telephone directory) or write to the Information Unit, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Annual Energy Requirements of Electric Household Appliances

When using these figures for projections, such factors as the size of the specific appliance, the geographic area of use and individual usage should be taken into consideration.

	<u>Est. kwh consumed annually</u>		<u>Est. kwh consumed annually</u>
FOOD PREPARATION		COMFORT CONDITIONING	
Blender	15	Air cleaner	216
Broiler	100	Air conditioner (room)	860*
Carving knife	8	Bed covering	147
Coffee maker	106	Dehumidifier	377
Deep fryer	83	Fan (attic)	291
Dishwasher	363	Fan (circulating)	43
Egg cooker	14	Fan (rollaway)	138
Frying pan	186	Fan (window)	170
Hot plate	90	Heater (portable)	176
Mixer	13	Heating pad	10
Oven, Microwave (only)	190	Humidifier	163
Range			
with oven	1,175	HOME ENTERTAINMENT	
with self-cleaning oven	1,205	Radio	86
Roaster	205	Radio/record player	109
Sandwich grill	33	Television	
Toaster	39	black & white	
Trash compactor	50	tube type	350
Waffle Iron	22	solid state	120
Waste Disposer	30	color	
		tube type	660
		solid state	440
FOOD PRESERVATION		HOUSEWARES	
Freezer (15. cu. ft.)	1,195	Clock	17
Freezer (frostless 15 cu. ft.)	1,761	Floor polisher	15
Refrigerator (12 cu. ft.)	728	Sewing machine	11
Refrigerator (frostless 12 cu. ft.)	1,217	Vacuum cleaner	46
Refrigerator/Freezer (14 cu. ft.)	1,137		
(Frostless 14 cu. ft.)	1,829		
LAUNDRY			
Clothes dryer	993		
Iron (hand)	144		
Washing machine (automatic)	103		
Washing machine (non-automatic)	76		
Water heater	4,811		

* Based on 1000 hours of operation per year. This figure will vary widely depending on area and specific size of unit.

Source: Electric Energy Association

PUT IT ALL TOGETHER FIRST

A Better Way To Build A House. An engineer of USDA's Forest Service has invented a better way to build a house. It's better because the invention helps save up to 30 percent or more of the framing lumber necessary to build a safe and sturdy building. The essence of the invention, called a light-weight, truss-frame house, is that the entire cross section of the house is fastened together into a rigid structural unit. The floor truss, conventional wall studs, and roof truss are tied together by rigid joints secured with metal truss plates. Every element of the structure helps resist load forces applied at any point. The house design is capable of supporting loads over long spans without basement posts or other support in the first story, thereby leaving the entire space between exterior walls open and facilitating greater variation in room layout. The 30 percent-lumber savings is possible because the framing members can be placed 24 inches apart instead of the conventional 16 inches; and the entire house frame can be made from 2 X 4's. Larger lumber now needed for floor joists is unnecessary. Each frame is relatively light, about 250 pounds, and can be tipped up for house construction, quickly enclosed, and easily transported--all frames necessary for a 40-foot-long house can be bundled in a package less than 3 feet wide. For more information on the truss-framed house--or to see if a better mousetrap has been developed--contact the Information Division, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, P.O. Box 5130, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN FOR THE SUMMER?

Back To The Great--And Dry--Outdoors. If it's a back-to-nature vacation for you this summer, you may run into more problems than mosquitoes and poison ivy. This is particularly the case if your plans are laid for forest areas of the West and Midwest where nature is being victimized by drought. USDA's Forest Service offers some helpful information. First, and most obvious, is to be very careful with campfires. This is always an important precaution, but especially so in drought-dry forests. In fact, there may be open fire restrictions in some National Forests. In some areas, water levels may be low, affecting water sports and sources of drinking water. Some campgrounds may be closed or designated as "dry camps"; backpackers and trail riders may need to carry more water than in a normal year. Bird watchers, frog listeners, and fish catchers may find that low water levels have reduced the numbers of their animal friends. Before you go merrily into the woods, you should check with the Forest Service office nearest the vacation area. Besides, it could rain all summer, you know.

Back To The Great--And Working--Outdoors. You have sat beside the sea; you have been to the mountain and back. Where else to go for a vacation in the great outdoors? How about a farm? There are many farm families who welcome vacationers to their working and producing farm for relaxation in the fresh air and under clear skies. You have an opportunity on some of the farms to help out with the work--or to sit by and watch. USDA has available a list of organizations and agencies that you can contact for information on farm vacations in specific States. It is a list of the information sources, not the detailed information on each farm. For a copy of the list, write to Special Reports Division, Office of Communication, Room 460-A, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

SERVICE is a monthly newsletter of consumer interest. It is designed for those who report to the individual consumer rather than for mass distribution. For information about items in this issue, write Lillie Vincent, Editor of Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Special Reports Division, Room 459-A, Washington, D.C. 20250, or telephone 202-447-5437.
